(छ) यदि हां, तो कब तक, और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) स्टेट आफ फारेस्ट रिपोर्ट, 1991 के अनुसार, देश का रिकार्ड किया गया वन क्षेत्र 7,70,078 वर्ग किलोमीटर है जबकि वास्तविक वन/वनस्पति आवरण 6,39,182 वर्ग मि० मी० है ।

(ख) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980, गैर वानिकी प्रयोजनों के लिए वन भूमि के उपयोग को विनियमित करने के लिए बनाया गया था । वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम 1980 को ईमानदारी से कार्यान्वित करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास किए जाते हैं ।

(ग) 30 जून, 1992 की स्थिति के अनुसार, वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत राजस्थान सरकार से 147 प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं । जिनमें से 66 मामलों को स्वीकृति दे दी गई है, 16 रद्द कर दिए गए हैं, 3 को वापस ले लिया गया है 59 मामले अतिरिक्त ब्यौरों के लिए राज्य सरकार के पास लंबित हैं और शेष 3 मामलों की इस मंत्रालय में जांच की जा रही है ।

(घ) और (ङ०) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

(च) और (छ) उल्लंघन के मामलों में 1988 से संशोधित वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, के प्रावधानों तथा उसके तहत जारी मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांतों के अनुसार कार्रवाई की जाती है ।

News item caption "poachers have a field day in Ranthambhore"

2878. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 15th July, 1992 under the caption 'Poachers have a field day in Ranthambhore';

(b) whether it is a fact that due to large scale poaching, elephants and other species of wildlife are being depleated;

(c) whether it is a fact that almost all the reserve forests and National parks illegal trade of outwood is flourishing; and

(d) if so, what are Government's plan to preserve the wildlife, forests and ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Spoardic instances of poaching of different species of wild animals and birds have come to the notice of the Central Government from time to time but no reports regarding decline in the population of species like elephants, panthers, tigers and lions have been received.

(c) Reports of illegal cutting of wood both by organised gangs for timbers and headloaders for fire wood are received from time to time.

(d) The action taken by the Central Government to preserve the wild-life forests and to maintain ecological balance include—

(i) Removal of any wildlife, including vegetation from any national park is banned except as provided for under the Wild Life (Protection) Act;

(ii) The State Governments are given financial assistance to strengthen their antipoaching infrastructure for national parks and sanctuaries;

(iii) Export of all Wildlife products for commercial purposes has been banned.

(iv) A new scheme entitled, "Eco-development of Areas In and Around National Parks and Sanctuaries" has been launched to achieve sustainable development and improvement on the quality of life of the local people. Other centrally sponsored schemes for afforestation and nature conservation also provide new avenues of employment to local people.

Drive to control auto emission suffers setback

2879. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 15th July, 1992 under the caption "Drive to control auto emission suffers a setback";

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that no tangible and substantial results would be achieved by the year 2000 in this regard;

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce auto emissions; and

(e) whether Government propose to revise targets downwards in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Policy Statement for the abatement of pollution states that progressively stricter vehicular emission standards will be evolved to deal with environmental hazards caused by vehicular traffic.

(c) **No, Sir.**

(d) Several steps have been taken to control vehicular pollution which will have an impact in reducing emissions. These include the following:

1. Gross emission standards for all types of on-the-road vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and these have come into force from March 1, 1990.

2.The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards.

3. Every manufacturer of motor vehicles is required to submit the prototype of the vehicle manufactured for test by an agency specified by the Government, and give a certificate of conformity of production and the compliance of the provisions of the Rules including emission standards. This provision has come into force from April 1, 1991.

4. The mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The standards for petrol driven vehicles have come into force from April, 1991; and the standards for diesel driven vehicles have come into force from April 1, 1992.

5. The petroleum industry has been asked to bring down the lead content in petrol to 0.15 grms/ litre by 1993.

6. The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur is engaged in developing an indisgenous catalytic convertor for controlling exhaust emission for on the road vehicles.

7. Public awareness campaigns about vehicular pollution have been launched.

(e) Progressively stricter vehicular emission standards will be evolved to deal with automobile pollution.